

CLAIMS

1. A system for distributing various content data to user terminals having at least one application for interpreting the content data and presenting it to a user, the system comprising:
- 5 a multiplicity of individual tokens, each token bearing an identity code, and having a user-removable obscuring means obscuring reading of the identity code;
- 10 a content server connected to a communication network whereby it may communicate with the terminals, and comprising data storage means storing the content data, and for each of the identity codes an indication of an item of the content data with which that code is associated, and indicated on the or each token bearing that code, and arranged to, on receiving from a terminal an identity code of a token, retrieve from the data storage means the
- 15 item of content data associated with that code and transmit it to that terminal.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each token is in the form of a card.
- 20 3. A system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the user-removable obscuring means is such as to be irreversibly removable.
4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the user-removable obscuring means is a scratch-off coating.
- 25 5. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the content data includes software defining a game and/or attributes of a gaming entity.
6. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the content data
- 30 includes Java software.

7. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each identity code is different from all the other identity codes, the content server stores for each identity code an indication of whether content associated with that code has been transmitted to a terminal, and the content server is arranged to on
5 receiving from a terminal an identity code of a token, transmit to that terminal the item of content data associated with that code only if the indication stored for that code indicates that content associated with that code has not been transmitted to a terminal .
- 10 8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each token is an individual vending item.
9. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least some of the terminals are wireless communication terminals.
- 15 10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each token bears an indication of the content data associated with the code borne by the token.
11. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each token bears
20 an indication of the retail price of the token.
12. A method for distributing various content data to user terminals having at least one application for interpreting the content data and presenting it to a user, the method comprising:
- 25 making available a multiplicity of individual tokens, each token bearing an identity code, and having a user-removable obscuring means obscuring reading of the identity code;
- storing in data storage means of a content server connected to a communication network whereby it may communicate with the terminals the
30 content data, and for each of the identity codes an indication of an item of the content data with which that code is associated; and

on receiving at the content server from a terminal an identity code of a token, retrieving from the data storage means the item of content data associated with that code and transmitting it to that terminal.

5 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising storing the transmitted content data at the terminal.

14. A method as claimed in claim 12 or 13, comprising interpreting the transmitted content data at the terminal and presenting it to a user of the
10 terminal.

15. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 14, comprising selling the tokens individually so as to make them available.

15 16. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 14, comprising selling the tokens in packs of such tokens so as to make them available.

17. A system for distributing various content data to user terminals substantially as herein described with reference to figures 2 and 3 of the
20 accompanying drawings.

18. A method for distributing various content data to user terminals substantially as herein described with reference to figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.